

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

12th October 2026

First reading

Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1

‘We are not children of the slave but of the free woman.’

Brothers and Sisters: It is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. The son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, ‘Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labour! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband.’ So, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 113(112):1-2. 3-4. 5a, 6-7. R2

May the name of the Lord be blest for evermore!

or: Alleluia.

Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

May the name of the Lord be blest both now and for evermore!

From the rising of the sun to its setting, praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord, above the heavens his glory.

Who is like the Lord, our God, who lowers himself to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly, from the ash heap he raises the poor.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Psalm 95(94):8a, 7c

Alleluia, alleluia.

Harden not your hearts today,

but listen to the voice of the Lord.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 11:29-32

‘No sign will be given to this generation except the sign of the Prophet Jonah.’

At that time: When the crowds were increasing, Jesus began to say, ‘This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. The Queen of the South will rise up at the judgement with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgement with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

When people came to Jesus looking for a sign he said the signs were in plain view if only they could see them. His own message and lifestyle was all the sign they needed, to open their hearts to God.

The people of Nineveh took Jonah more seriously than Jesus' hearers were taking him, yet he was a more powerful sign of God's presence than Jonah. Something greater than Jonah is here. The queen of Sheba listened to Solomon more attentively than Jesus' hearers did to him, and Jesus could teach them more than Solomon could.

In looking for the extraordinary, we can miss the divine presence in ordinary things. Jesus seemed ordinary to his neighbours. 'Is not this the son of the carpenter? When he spoke about God's kingdom, he did so in simple terms, like the sower going out to sow or the man who was robbed on the road Jericho, or the weeds that grow among the field of wheat. He said that signs of God's presence are in the ordinary stuff of life, for those who have eyes to see. Right now we pray for eyes to see the mystery.